Turning a botanic garden into an enchanted forest

By James Sullivan  Globe Correspondent, Updated August 31, 2022, 2:44 p.m.

Whether she’s out in the woods or exploring a well-tended garden, Sally J. Smith never feels alone.

“It’s the spirit of the place,” says the artist. “I’ll see a little face that calls to me, and I’ll work from there.”

For the past 15 years or so Smith — a watercolorist, photographer, and land artist — has

One of many site-specific and nature-inspired fairy houses of the Enchanted Forest exhibit. SALLY J. SMITH
specialized in building fairy houses, whimsical structures made from wood, stone, leaves, and other natural materials. Beginning on Sept. 10, Smith’s creations will transform the new playground at the recently renamed New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston into an “Enchanted Forest.”